GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1345
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2005
CENTRE STATE RELATION .
Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) to finalize the terms of reference to set up a new Commission to look into the issues relating to Centre-State Relations afresh;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether the GoM has finalized the terms of reference of the Commission;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the Commission will be set up and submit its recommendations?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Pursuant to the decision taken by the Government for setting up of a new Commission on Centre-State Relations, the Government had constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) comprising the Defence Minister as its Chairman and the Home Minister, Minister of Human Resource Development, Minister of Law & Justice, Minister of Tribal Affairs & Minister of Development of North Eastern Region and Minister of Water Resources as Members and the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission as a Special Invitee. The GoM was constituted for finalizing the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Commission.

(c) & (d): The GoM met on February 16, 2005 and finalized the TOR of the Commission. As per its TOR, the Commission would examine and review the working of the existing arrangements between the Union and States as per the Constitution of India and various pronouncements of the Courts in this regard; address the growing challenges of ensuring good governance for promoting welfare of the people, strengthening the unity and integrity of the country. Besides, the Commission will also make recommendations on the role, responsibility and jurisdiction of Centre vis-a vis States during major and prolonged outbreaks of communal violence, caste violence or any other social conflict leading to prolonged and escalated violence; planning and implementation of mega projects; effective devolution of powers and autonomy to various local bodies; practice of independent planning and budgeting at District level; linking central assistance with the performance of States; positive discrimination in favour of backward states; fiscal relations between Centre and States; levying duties on goods and services in the emerging tax regime; freeing inter-State trade to establish a unified and integrated domestic market; setting up a Central Law Enforcement Agency; supporting legislation under Article 355, etc.

(e): Notification for setting up of the Commission has not been issued and it is not possible to indicate any timeframe in this regard. The proposed tenure of the Commission is two years.